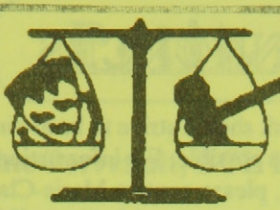


Quid Novi



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le 13 janvier 1992

AN INTRODUCTION TO CAREERS DAY

by Chris Naudie & Suzy Costom,
Careers Committee chairpersons

Welcome to Careers Day. Or should we say Careers Week. Traditionally, Careers Day has revolved around a one day event, where a broad spectrum of firms, governmental organizations and institutions converge on the Faculty to offer students an introduction to life beyond law school. This year is no different. On Friday January 17th, over fifty prospective employers will set up shop in the halls of the faculty. Students will have a unique opportunity to check out the firms, flirt with recruiters, and ask all the stupid and embarrassing questions that you would never dare ask in a pressured interview.

However, this year is different. Past Careers Days have given the false impression that the only source of employment for law students are big, monolithic law firms. While we all know this to be a fallacy, we often find ourselves unable to point to alternatives. The Careers Day committee has thus embarked on a relentless struggle to do just that. We therefore proudly presented a panel entitled «Big firm; small firm; sole practitioner» on Wednesday, January 8th at 12:00. Lawyers working in each of these settings shared their views and answered questions as to what life is like in their employment milieus. The event was a great success, as described below by Sophie Perreault. Hopefully, it went far towards demonstrating that law firms come in

many shapes and sizes, and that different individuals will be happy in different settings.

As well, this year we are trying to offer some insight as to legal careers outside the stereotypical law firm. There are far too many students hesitant about working in a firm, and frustrated about the lack of information on alternative sources of employment. Thus, the tireless careers day committee has strived to present the broad spectrum of employment opportunities outside the «firm». On Thursday, January 16th at 15:00, we are presenting a panel entitled «Beyond the Firm: Other Career Opportunities». Lawyers involved in External Relations, human rights, and business will briefly describe their experiences, and then the floor will be open to questions. The particulars of the event and the calibre of our guests are described below by Nancy Girard. We know that the session will be both informative and exciting, and we encourage all to come and ask questions.

Past careers days have also ignored the practical aspects of actually getting a career. Particularly, there has been an increasing demand for more information on the process of CV writing and interviews. Thus, as if no burden is too great to bear, the careers committee has endeavoured to provide information on the subtleties of the application process. On Wednesday, January 15th at 12:00, in a presentation entitled «Getting the Job: CVs and Interviews», two downtown

lawyers with extensive experience on stagiaires committees will offer a candid discussion of what impresses employers, and what does not. The background of these two lawyers and the scope of their discussion are described below by Christopher Naudie. We hope the presentation will offer tips on putting that extra gloss on your job application.

And of course, this overview would be incomplete if we failed to mention the big day itself, Careers Day. The main event will be happening on Friday, January 17th throughout the day. After spending an afternoon shmoozing with future employers, we will all have a chance to let our hair down at a wine and cheese reception beginning at 16:00 in the common room. At this point, we would like

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ANNOUCEMENTS/ANNONCES

Forum National - Mr. Justice G.V. La Forest of the Supreme Court of Canada will speak in the Moot Court on Wednesday, January 15 at noon.

Master's Thesis Work - Prof. Stevens has a Master's student who is in the process of completing her thesis. English is her second language - she is Chinese. She requires editorial assistance in drafting her thesis. She has completed her research and completed a second draft of the thesis. Prof. Stevens is looking for a law student who would be interested in spending between 30 and 50 hours helping his Master's student with the text of her thesis. The rate of pay would be \$6 per hour. There would be no research involved, only editorial work. The work would have to be done during the last two weeks of January and the first week of February. If you are interested in this position, please apply with a letter of application and a CV to David Stevens by Friday, January 17th at 5:00 pm.

Exchange Program - Prof. Stevens has the application forms for the Civil Law/Common Law Exchange Program. If you are interested in the program, please take note that the application deadline is 17 January 1992. Prof. Stevens also has brochures and there are posters around the school describing the program. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with him.

Canada Memorial Scholarships - The Canada Memorial Foundation offers scholarships to «very able» Canadian postgraduate students wishing to study at a British university for a year. Candidates for a Canada Memorial Scholarship are entitled to indicate the institution to which they would like to go, but the Foundation cannot ensure acceptance. Candidates must be citizens or permanent residents of Canada, normally resident in Canada, and they will by October 1991 be either holders of a degree or an equivalent qualification, or will have entered their final year of an undergraduate course with a proven academic record. Candidates will also need to show a record of participated activities, indicating qualities of leadership and initiative. Preference will be given to candidates who are below the age of 28. For more information, contact the Office of Fellowships and Exchanges, room 408, Dawson Hall (398-3995).

Fourth Year Students - All fourth year students are asked to attend a short photo session for our annual yearbook on Thursday, January 16th at 4:00 pm. Only 5 minutes of your precious time is required. Don't miss it! It's your last chance to make an appearance in the world famous Res Ipsa Loquitur.

Can You Draw?/Pouvez-vous dessiner? - L'équipe du Res Ipsa Loquitur est à la recherche de talents artistiques pour dessiner la façade extérieure de notre élégant Chancellor Day Hall.

Your artwork should strive to be as simple but yet as original as possible. For information concerning dimensions, please contact Marie-Claude Rigaud (284-3052) or Andrea Morrison (284-5007) as soon as possible. L'artisan du dessin choisi se verra attribuer une copie gratuite de l'album-souvenir.

Concours de droit comparé - Institué par l'Association québécoise de droit comparé pour couronner le travail qui apporte la meilleure contribution au droit comparé. Le travail doit être une étude juridique (essai, thèse, analyse, monographie ou autre), original et inédit, d'un minimum de 4000 mots. Un même travail peut être rédigé par au plus trois personnes. Le gagnant, la gagnante, ou l'équipe gagnante recevra une somme de \$800. Pour être admissible, tout travail doit être reçu le 1er juin 1992 par: le professeur Ernest Caparros, Faculté de droit, section de droit civil, Université d'Ottawa, 57, rue Louis-Pasteur, Ottawa, Ontario, K1N 6N5.

Green Plan Graduate Fellowships - As one component of its so-called Green Plan, the Federal Government has created a number of special fellowship awards at the Doctoral level only. The application deadline for the first competition will be in late Spring 1992, so the awards will be tenable as of September 1992. Each award is tenable for up to three years, with a value of \$18 000/year. Fellowship application forms will be available in the new year. For those who are interested you may contact: Alain Canuel, Tri-Council Secretariat, c/o Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, 255 Albert St., Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 6G4.

Diana M. Priestly Scholarship - The Canadian Association of Law Libraries has created the Diana M. Priestly Scholarship which will be awarded to an individual needing to enhance his/her academic qualifications for law librarianship. The current value of the award is \$2000. The Scholarship will be available to graduates of Canadian law schools who are enrolled in an accredited Canadian library school during the next academic year. For further information contact: Suzan A. Hebditch, Chairperson, Diana M. Priestly Scholarship Committee, Canada Department of Justice, 928 Royal Trust Tower, Edmonton, Alberta, T5H 2Z2. Applications must be dated no later than 15 February 1992.

CIDA Awards for Canadians - Up to fifty awards are available from CIDA on an annual basis for Canadians wishing to further develop expertise in the field of international development. Applicants must be Canadian citizens who have created a program in which they will work on a specific development need or problem. The program must have a clear practical orientation, and may not be a Ph.D. program per se. Part of the program must include field work in a developing country eligible for Canadian official development assistance and where the applicant has the support of a local

organization, institution or agency. The preferred fields of specializations for the CIDA awards for Canadians include human rights policy issues. For more information contact: Program Manager, CIDA Awards for Canadians, Canadian Bureau for International Education, 85 Albert St., Suite 1400, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 6A4. The deadline for applications is February 12, 1992.

The Wonderful World of the Law Bookstore

by Amanda Bross, bookstore manager

To all students: THANK YOU!!!

The Law Bookstore would like to thank all the 1st year students who helped us with the November book returns, as well as all the students who volunteered their time at the beginning of the semester.

As this semester begins I would like to tell you how the bookstore operates. The bookstore is run entirely by volunteers. We rely on YOU to keep the bookstore alive. This is how we can manage to keep our prices so low. Not only are our prices lower, law students also benefit from the convenience of having a store right across the street and not having to wait outside in a 1 hour line, as might happen at the main bookstore.

Any profit that is made during the year is handed over to the Dean, who in turn uses the money to pay for the summer research which McGill law students provide for our professors.

On this occasion I would like to ask all students to be understanding of a new policy which comes into effect right now. Wilson and Lafleur has not been able to accommodate us as a volunteer run organization. All publishers have a return policy. However, they often make extensions and exceptions for students. The policy at Wilson Lafleur makes it difficult for us to return the books on time. Because of this, the bookstore may lose large sums of money. Until there is a change in their policy, we will try to avoid ordering Wilson Lafleur codes. Also we will order only the bare minimum of required texts. If a text is optional, we will order only the number of texts which students order individually. This may result in minor delays, so please be patient.

The Bookstore is a job that takes up a good deal of time both during the year and during the summer. Although everyone who works there is a volunteer, the manager is paid an honorarium for his/her work during the summer. A new manager is chosen every November by the present bookstore manager in conjunction with the LSA. Congratulations to Ari Slatkoff who will occupy the post of manager next year.

In Memoriam

Many of you know that one of our graduates, Patricia Allen (LLB/BCL, 1988) - who brought much to our Faculty and had much to offer her community and her friends in the future - died in November, killed by her estranged husband. On December 17, her classmates and the Faculty held a memorial service in her honour, in the Common Room.

Friends and classmates Cheryl Buckley, Michael Doyle, and Vincent Gallo, Dean Morrisette, and Professors Macdonald and Stevens addressed the gathering. The recollections were remarkable for their variety, reflecting the breadth and richness of Patricia's character.

They all stressed her love, her sense of engagement in the world, her intelligence, her wit. They ranged from personal memories of her consideration for others, to her involvement in the activities of the Faculty, to allusions, with great sadness, to the manner of her death.

Michael Doyle spoke of her life as a project, and of his joy at watching her begin to define that project first in philosophy at Ottawa, subsequently in law at McGill, and then in the few short years of practice following graduation.

David Stevens spoke of Patricia's sense of community. He recounted a vigorous debate with her, one Skit Night. «She was smart enough», he said, «to see that the institutional distance required between teacher and student is often an awkward social handicap, and she was caring enough and brave enough to do something about it. I still recall her voice, her arguments and her smile.»

Many noted her contribution to the Faculty and, especially in a letter from her parents, what her time in the Faculty had meant to her.

Her classmates intend to endow an annual lecture in her honour. It is yet to be defined, but will probably focus on the engagement of lawyers in social issues. A note will appear in the Quid when arrangements have been finalized.

Petit, moyen, gros

par Sophie Perreault, BCL III

Janvier est là et avec lui le temps des remises en question, des réflexions concernant les choix de carrière, des offres d'emploi. Si je m'oriente vers la pratique privée, dans quel environnement aimerais-je travailler? Gros cabinet ou plus petite étude? Et pourquoi ne pas pratiquer seul(e)?

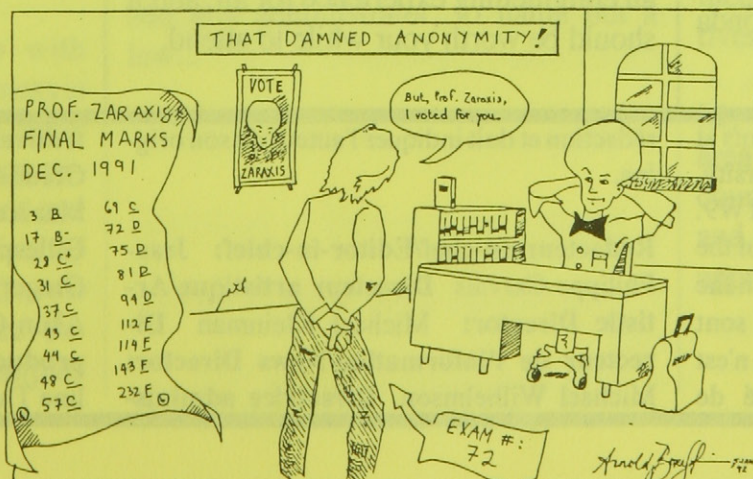
Le travail dans un gros cabinet, tant vanté par certains, comporte certainement des avantages. D'abord, puisque les coûts sont partagés par plusieurs, il est probable que les outils de travail (bibliothèque, service de traduction, équipement informatique, etc...) sont plus nombreux. De plus, des champs de pratique variés créent un environnement de travail stimulant. Ensuite, comme les plus gros cabinets ont souvent des bureaux dans d'autres villes ou d'autres pays, la possibilité de transferts ou de voyages peut être plus grande. Finalement, comme les femmes sont plus nombreuses dans un grand cabinet (non pas en proportion, mais en nombre), les avantages parentaux tels les congés de maternité ou de paternité et les garderies en milieu de travail sont peut-être plus développés (tout cela étant très relatif).

D'un autre côté, un plus petit cabinet peut offrir la possibilité de se voir confier de plus grandes responsabilités plus rapidement. Déjà en tant qu'étudiant(e) ou

stagiaire, on est plus directement confronté à telle ou telle affaire et les chances de rencontrer des clients ou d'accompagner l'avocat en cour sont plus nombreuses. À plus long terme, la possibilité de devenir associé(e) rapidement est sans doute plus grande. Finalement, si la vie à la ville ne vous plaît pas, un petit cabinet offre l'avantage de permettre la pratique en région.

Et pourquoi ne pas pratiquer seul(e)? Cette option permet évidemment d'être son propre employeur, avec tous les avantages que cela comporte, dont celui de pouvoir travailler à la maison. Toutefois, il faut soi-même se lancer à la recherche de capital et de clients, et avoir des talents d'administrateur.

Ces options s'offrent toutes à vous. Réfléchissez-y et choisissez l'environnement de travail qui vous convient. En espérant que le réunion-débat tenue par le Comité Carrières mercredi dernier, à laquelle participaient un avocat pratiquant dans un grand cabinet montréalais, un associé d'un plus petit cabinet et un avocat travaillant à son compte, a su vous éclairer dans votre démarche.



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to stress the informality of the entire event (no suits!). This will probably be our only chance to act like normal people in front of our future employers, so take advantage of it.

Events like Careers Day take an enormous amount of effort to organize and put together. This has been particularly true for this year's events, for an expanded Careers Day meant a heavier burden for all those involved. The first round of thanks goes to Professor Jukier for her organizational efforts and her endless willingness to take lawyers out for lunch. Not only did she give us prudent guidance, but she also gave us the room and freedom to develop the event as we envisioned it. An equal thanks goes to the tireless efforts of Barbara Kerr and Barbara Whiston for sending off all the invitations and taking care of all the details which make Careers Day happen. As well, we are deeply indebted to Pat Kosseim and the placement office for really working together with us throughout the year. Thanks to Linda Coughlin of the dean's office for her help with the foreign firm information day, to Daniel Shap and his patience with our lack of computer literacy, to Jean-Philippe Gervais and the gang at the Quid, and all the others that made Careers Day happen. Finally, we would like to thank the Careers Day committee for their hard work, and above all, their patience with their incompetent and forgetful chairpeople! Thank you to the committee: Arun Bajaj, Martine Cohen, Diane Dagenais, Sivan Fox, Stephanie Gilcher, Nancy Girard, Howard Leibovich, Kenny Nathens, Sophie Perreault, Neil Stoopler, David Weinberger and Rhonda Yarin.

Getting the Job:

CVs and Interviews

by Christopher Naudie, BCL II

It often seems that Careers Day places a little too much emphasis on the opportunity to shmooze with employers, while ignoring the practical aspects of actually getting a job. Thus, on Wednesday, Jan. 15th at 12:00 in room 202, the Careers Committee is pleased to invite two experienced guests who will offer their insights into the subtleties of the application process. Mr. Peter Hoffman and Mr. John Godber, two downtown lawyers with extensive experience on stagiaires committees, will present a candid discussion on what employers look for in a CV and an interview. Mr. Hoffman, the author of the «Career Handbook for Law Students», (publ. by Carswell), has a particular background in this domain.

Their presentation will offer an informal setting to ask all those questions on how to put a little extra gloss on the written application. How long should a CV be? Must it be laser printed? Should the cover letter follow a particular form? As well, the discussion will present a chance to ask about appropriate protocol during an interview. Is it taboo to ask about money? Will employers be put off if you ask about maternity leave? What should one do if an interview question is unduly personal? Furthermore, the presentation will address the process of offer and acceptance. Are offer deadlines relatively rigid? If I haven't made my mind, is it wrong to accept two offers? All these aspects and more will be discussed on Wednesday. Without a doubt, it will be an enlightening experience for all, and it should be worth your while to attend.

Alternatives to working in a law firm

by Nancy Girard, BCL II

In the past few years, the focus of the Careers Day Committee has been largely on the possibilities. However, some of the lectures scheduled during this first and second week of classes will center on alternatives to working in private practice.

This year, one of the main objectives of the Career's Day Committee is to increase students' awareness of the wide range of possibilities that the legal profession offers, (i.e. beyond the L.A. Law stereotype!)

On Thursday, Jan 16th at 4:00 pm., we have invited Don Smith, Director of the Legal Advisory Dept., Division of External Affairs (Ottawa), Irith Weiser, counsel in Human Rights law (Ottawa) and Douglas Pascal of Candarell, a real-estate company. Each will speak of the work they do, the job opportunities in their field of occupation, etc..., and, most importantly, the floor will be open to questions.

This occasion will thus hopefully allow you the opportunity to make an more enlightened choice of careers when the moment comes.

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Mr. Subliminal Visits Careers Day

by Howard Leibovich and David Weinberger, BCL II

Student: If I have good marks will I get a job at your firm?

Firm Representative: Well, marks are important, but we look for more than just that. It would be helpful if you had some experience and some extra curricular activities (a personality). I would be more than willing to go over your C.V. with you in private (bring small, unmarked bills).

S: What's it like working in a small firm?

FR: Oh it's great!!! Everyone is so kind and friendly, it's like having another family (where you've been disinherited).

S: What's it like working in a large firm?

FR: Oh it's great!!! The firm is involved in so many different areas. You really get to expand your horizons and feel chal-

lenged (no one notices if you come in late).

S: Is it difficult to become a partner in your firm?

FR: If you work hard and are dedicated, then it's very easy to become a partner (...not).

S: Do you have any helpful hints for the interview process?

FR: Oh don't worry, just be calm and relaxed (buy some Right Guard). Remain confident and you won't have any problems (try Clorets and get that zit off your forehead).

FR: Are you interested in our firm despite the fact that we specialize in Maritime Law and Successions?

S: Yes! In fact, I've geared my whole life towards the study of Maritime Law. Also, last summer I took an extra 6 credit course at 8 in the morning on the History

of Successions in South East Asia with Professor Webber (Damn! I thought this was the booth for the A.G. Canada).

FR: Golly! That's impressive (this kid's a loser).

FR: What exactly brought you to our firm?

S: I was looking for a firm with a friendly environment that would give me plenty of opportunity to develop (nice letterheads).

FR: You will definitely find that with our firm. You will be presented with ample opportunity to grow and enrich yourself (we have nice letterheads). The office environment is also very pleasant and we have many organized recreational activities for our staff (bring lots of condoms).

S: It must be nice getting away from the office for the day.

FR: Yes, I just really enjoy a chance to visit good old McGill (I'm here for the food).

Career opportunities in the music/entertainment business

by Diane Dagenais, LLB II

The entertainment industry provides a variety of law-related career opportunities as well as careers in business and management, for which an understanding of law is an asset. The requirement for legal services in the music/entertainment business is mainly in the areas of copyright law and contract negotiations. Many of the bigger law firms in Toronto, Vancouver and Montréal have lawyers specialising in entertainment law.

Another possibility for lawyers with expertise in the entertainment business is a position as in-house counsel in firms such as music publishers, record companies, concert promoters, film studios and distributors. There are also a variety of organizations, associations and Crown Corporations which could require the services of an attorney. Some examples

are: performing rights and mechanical licensing organizations such as BMI and ASCAP in the U.S. and SOCAN in Canada; recording industry and sports associations; the CBC and the National Film Board of Canada.

Extralegal career options within the arts and entertainment industry can include personal artist management, as well as countless numbers of managerial and executive positions such as producer, professional manager, music publisher, TV, radio or record company executive, and arts administrator, to name but a few...

Office of the official Guardian-Ministry of the Attorney-General

by Stacy Zosky, Nat. IV

Last summer I worked at the Office of the Official Guardian (OG) and I will be articling there next year. The OG provides legal representation for children in child protection proceedings, custody/access disputes and civil litigation. The OG also acts as a substitute decision-maker on medical treatment matters for mentally incompetent patients who have no relatives to act on their behalf.

My work last summer was primarily in the area of child protection. I did research for counsel on a case involving physical abuse and wrote a report on emergency medical apprehension (a study of the Jehovah's

Cont'd on p.6

Witness cases). However, I did not spend
Office of the... cont'd from p.5

my entire summer researching. I was also given the opportunity to sit in on client interviews, court proceedings, and settlement negotiations in order to get a better idea of how the office works. The lawyers I worked under were approachable and encouraging. The atmosphere in the office was friendly and casual. Overall, it was a positive experience, and one which I recommend.

The OG employs nine articling students every year. The rotational system allows the students to work in each of the following areas: child custody and access, child protection, and civil litigation. For anyone interested in gaining litigation experience during their articles the OG is an option to consider. In child custody/access and protection cases, students actually carry their own files in Provincial Court. This enables the students to conduct interim proceedings and trials.

A Message from the Placement Office

by Pat Kosseim, Nat. IV

Welcome back everyone!!! For many of us, the month of January is a symbolic demarcation between the past and the future. The beginning of a new year is often a time to reflect upon past experiences through which we have developed the strengths, weaknesses, interests, concerns and beliefs that make up our reality. It is also the time we take to decide how to arrange and/or re-arrange these building blocks in a configuration that will help further the goals and aspirations we wish to attain in the future.

This process is, by its very nature, a highly personal one. Every individual will approach it from a unique perspective and begin with various size and shape building blocks. Necessarily then, these will form distinct configurations, reaching out in different directions. This process can involve any aspect of our

lives, and our career is no exception. The philosophy espoused by both the Career and Placement Committees this year, has been to conserve, rather than converge, this individuality. What this *Quid* issue hopefully makes clear is that there is no one model resumé which contains the «right» building blocks. Nor is there one, standard job which offers the appropriate configuration for everybody.

The goal of both Committees is to provide students with information that is better sensitized to their specific needs and is more representative of the wide range of possibilities that are open to them.

The Placement Committee attempts to keep a permanent, written record of this information in the Placement Office. The advantage of this form of information is that it assembles all of the facts in one location which facilitates one's research. It also offers students the possibility of personal access throughout the entire school year, at their own leisure.

The Careers' Committee organizes the widespread distribution of this information during specific occasions. The advantage of this form of information is that it offers students the unique opportunity to interact directly with the representatives of various organizations. This provides one with the possibility of asking highly individualized questions, the answers to which may not be available in general, written data.

Ideally, a candidate going through the career planning process should use both these forms of information in tandem. In either case, whether approaching written or «live» data, a student may want to consider the following:

1. What city/province would I like to live in?
2. Would I prefer to work in the private or public sector?
3. What area(s) of specialization interest me?
4. What size organization would I like to

work for?

5. How important are financial considerations such as salary and bar school fees?
6. What kind of articling program would I prefer to work in: a specific student-mentor arrangement, a fixed rotation system or a looser, more dynamic structure?
7. How heavy a workload am I prepared to take on?
8. What are my chances of getting hired by the same organization on a permanent basis after articling?
9. What «corporate» philosophy will I feel comfortable with? Is it important that I know how many women lawyers work in this organization? Whether the organization offers a family leave policy? What other benefits do they offer their employees? And what is the possibility for promotion within the ranks of the organization?
10. Will the the organization support me if I wish to eventually complete a further degree or take other courses or teach or do legal aid work or further develop a specific area of interest or move to another of their branch offices?

These are but some of the considerations that may assist students in preparing the career planning process and making more informed career choices. Do take advantage of the many events that have been planned by the Careers' Committee this month and do come by the Placement Office during office hours (TBA next week).

Un été en forme de réforme

par Marie-Claude Rigaud, Nat. IV

Travail dynamique et constructif, atmosphère à la fois détendue et stimulante, relations de travail personnalisées, emploi où collaboration, réflexion, débat et discussion sont de mise, horaire quotidien plus que décent (8:30 à 5:30/6:00; fin de semaine à l'occasion), conditions salariales intéressantes et compétitives, ne voilà qu'un simple avant-goût de ce que pourrait vous offrir une position en tant qu'étudiant à la commission de réforme du droit d'Ontario.

Celle-ci fut la première de son genre à être instituée dans le Commonwealth. Depuis sa création en 1964, la commission ontarienne a publié plus de cent rapports qui ont, chacun à leur manière, contribué à l'avancement de divers domaines du droit.

Véritable véhicule de politique législative, le rôle premier de cette commission est d'identifier, d'analyser et de promouvoir de nouvelles idées ou lignes de pensée, tout en laissant au gouvernement le soin et la liberté de s'en inspirer.

Quelques six avocats travaillent présentement de façon permanente pour la commission présidée par Rosalie Abella. Juristes de formation, la plupart d'entre eux ont consacré les premières années de leurs carrières à la pratique du droit ou à l'enseignement. En tant que membres de la commission, ils sont appelés à consulter une panoplie d'experts et de professionnels oeuvrant dans divers domaines, dans un effort d'articuler clairement leurs besoins et leurs attentes, toujours en évolution, de même qu'à mettre en lumière les failles de nos institutions en peine de modernisation.

Deux étudiants sont employés chaque été pour les assister dans la préparation de leurs rapports respectifs, dont le travail

consiste principalement à rechercher et à documenter divers domaines du droit et à tenter de répondre aux nombreuses questions et controverses qu'ils soulèvent.

Les thèmes abordés par la commission sont tout aussi fondamentaux et importants que le besoin de réévaluer les solutions privilégiées par nos institutions pour y répondre.

Peu de postes dans le monde juridique offrent la possibilité privilégiée de s'interroger et de réévaluer de telles questions, mais un emploi à une commission de réforme du droit permet de satisfaire un besoin souvent négligé dans la routine et le rythme effréné de la profession d'avocat: celui de contribuer à un projet important, celui de l'avancement du bien-être de notre société par la transformation constante des règles juridiques qui la gouvernent.

En ce qui concerne les désavantages que représente un tel emploi... ils sont plutôt rares! Le seul qui retienne l'attention est l'impossibilité immédiate de constater l'aboutissement de la contribution de l'étudiant dans la «méga-machine» que représente un rapport. Mais n'est-ce pas là malheureusement la réalité à laquelle sont confrontés la majorité d'entre nous à ce stade de notre formation?

En passant, montréalais sceptiques... Toronto est une ville beaucoup plus charmante que vous ne le croyez. Avec son visage multiculturel encore plus prononcé que celui de Montréal, avec sa grandeur et son intérêt marqué pour les arts visuels et dramatiques, tous pourront y trouver de quoi satisfaire leurs attentes...

A New Year in the Life of Nathalie Goldin - UP-Civil

by Nathalie Goldin, BCL III

Happy New Year!!! I truly do hope that you all enjoyed a relaxing and fun-filled holiday. I share in your excitement and thrill for being so soon back at school (nothing like a little sarcasm to bring in the new year!). Nevertheless, welcome back and let's hope that 1992 will bring us all nothing but the best.

Of course, the newly-instated recruitment process will commence this year in Québec. The process works as follows:

- students must be, at least, enrolled in their 2nd year of law;
- no interviews shall take place before March 2nd 1992;
- offers for either summer employment or for stages will not be made before April 1, 1992;
- offers remain open until at least April 4th, 1992.

What should be noted is that since this process was only agreed upon in November 1991, there will be some firms which will not adhere to the process for this year, since they had already organized their recruitment process prior to the agreement of November, 1991.

I would urge all potential candidates, when applying to the law firms, to acknowledge the agreement, in order to reinforce it and stabilize it. This would serve the best interests of the whole legal community in Québec, particularly us, the law students.

I thank you for any effort made to render this agreement a success, and thus a powerful convenience for all Québec law students. Good luck with your applications, and, again, if you should have any questions, please contact me.

Taking a Bite: My Summer in the Big Apple

by Susan Abramovitch (graduated, May 1991)

[This article is quite possibly the most popular in Quid history. This is the third time it's been printed, having previously appeared in the Oct. 17 1989 and Sept. 1990 issues. At the request of the Careers Committee, we reprint it again this year.]

Since returning to Montréal after my summer associate stint in a large New York City law firm, four questions have greeted me recurrently:

- 1) «Did you work really long hours?»
- 2) «With the "big" clients and "big" deals that these New York firms have and do, your work must have been limited to photocopying and coffee-fetching, right?»
- 3) «Lunches, dinners, plays, cocktail parties, benefits, trips: Were you required to do any work?»
- 4) «Fine, you had fun for a summer. But are you prepared for the life of indentured servitude that lies ahead of you in "real-life" New York?»

Interpreting these questions as interest on the part of the student body, I will address the underlying queries of each of the above.

1) The Hours

New York law firm office hours begin at 9:30 a.m., the time at which I usually arrived. My day would generally end at 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. The hours, of course, were flexible. No one would criticize a late arrival at 10:30 or 11:00 a.m., as long as the tardy summer associate's secretary was kept abreast of the student's whereabouts.

Weekend work was rare. Over the entire summer, I felt the need to devote part of my Saturday to memorandum-editing

only twice.

The urgent nature of particular projects led me to work evenings at points in the summer. Although labouring past 8:00 p.m. occurred infrequently, the firm's policy of dinner and car service «on the client» helped ease the discomfort of late-night work.

2) The Work

The summer program at my firm is divided into practice area rotations chosen by the student. I, for example, rotated through the litigation department for five weeks and the corporate department, Mergers & Acquisitions and Capital Markets sub-divisions, for six weeks.

Commencing my American legal experience in litigation was not one of the better decisions I have made in my life. At large law firms, as many of us already know, junior associate litigation work means library research. Large New York law firms are no exception. Although I am well-equipped in Canadian legal research techniques due to that oh-so-helpful library assignment in first year, I found myself lost in the American stacks. «Blue-booking», the «Key system» and «Shepardizing» were foreign concepts to me. Manual searches, furthermore, were discouraged due to the time wasted (the client was actually paying \$90,00 U.S. for every summer associate billable hour); rather, Westlaw and Lexis computer searches were the norm. My legal analysis abilities were, obviously, retarded somewhat because of my inexperience in American research. During the first weeks into this rotation, thankfully, I managed to develop a familiarity with American research skills which allowed me to perform more efficiently.

I was assigned to a «cluster» which concentrated on white collar crime litigation and I worked under the supervision of a well-known U.S. Attorney's Office prosecutor, cum criminal defense attor-

ney, cum entertainment law litigator/partner. I was able to attend the arraignment and bail hearing of a high-profile arbitrager charged with securities fraud, i.e. insider-trading, for which matter I had done research. Other, more mundane work also filled my days, including brief-writing for a bankrupt law firm's collection suits and research memoranda on corporate litigation matters. I was sent to Los Angeles to observe a mock summary jury trial put on by the attorneys of the local branch of my firm. Finally, the highlight of my summer was participating in a mock examination of a witness which I coordinated with a fellow summer associate. This event took place in a genuine Federal District Court over which a genuine Federal District judge presided.

By the time I rotated to the corporate department, I felt relatively comfortable with American law. The corporate work, furthermore, did not require much pre-acquired knowledge of any law, as I believe is the case with respect to Canadian summer student corporate work as well. I drafted and reviewed forms required for securities offerings, headed for the Securities and Exchange Commission in Washington, D.C. I travelled to La-crosse, Wisconsin to perform «due diligence», searching through corporate files for lease information which I would later analyze in preparation for a friendly takeover. A trip to «the printer» brought me, ironically, to Toronto. In order not to distort the picture, I should add that a certain amount of research and memorandum-writing was required in this department as well. I analyzed, for example, the effects of a European Economic Community Directive, which set out prospectus-unification requirements, on Americans investing abroad.

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3) The Fun

As you can probably deduce by now, I had quite a bit of free time to enjoy New York City. The firm took advantage of this opportunity to show me the city, hastening my falling in love with the Big Apple. Social activities included: a boat cruise around Manhattan, a private party at the Central Park Zoo, lunches at trendy Wall Street restaurants at least three times weekly, charity benefits at hot N.Y.C. nightclubs, dinner and Broadway play-evenings with associate advisor and dates, a day off for the entire firm to enjoy sun and sports at the country club, and baseball games at Shea and Yankee Stadiums. If you thought I would deny the obscene extent of the «wooing» process pursued by the New York law firms, you were mistaken.

Although I find it hard to condone the extensive expenditure of money on law brats while, outside the trendy restaurants, the many homeless lay begging (especially hard to deny when I was a beneficiary of the firm's «good will») I must admit that these social functions helped dispel my preconception of New York lawyers as one-dimensional and ruthlessly self-interested. I discovered, through informal conversation, that the firm is made up of fascinating individuals, who possess extra-legal talents, and who are, in addition, exceptional lawyers.

Finally, the firm organized interesting seminars on legal topics related to the firm's activities and a field trip to the New York Stock Exchange.

4) The Future

Ten days after the completion of the students' summer work, the firm informs the summer associate whether the hiring committee has decided to extend an offer of full-time employment to her or him. If another summer remains before the student graduates, the firm also offers a summer associate position for the following year. The firm encourages, however, that the student sample another legal experience, even if that means

working at a competing firm.

I realize, of course, that life as a New York associate «married» to the firm is not as glamorous as that of a summer associate still in the «courting» stage of the relationship. I witnessed associates whom I befriended work long hours on high-pressure work. These conditions deter me from jumping on the N.Y.C. bandwagon. The quality of the assignments given to the associates, however, is high, as is the level of responsibility and these factors help explain the stressful nature of the associate's job. The training that these associates are receiving, furthermore, is probably some of the best around, as the partners guiding them are some of the best around. My presently unformed decision whether to join a New York law firm will involve a balancing of these pros and cons of associate life.

Update 1990

I did take up the firm's suggestion to sample another New York firm this past summer. The experience paralleled that of the one described above. Even in the post-1980s era of law firm-hiring cutbacks, I continued to benefit from the opulent (though perhaps misguided) generosity of the New York summer experience.

Among the highlights of this past summer were:

The Work

Two weeks in New Zealand, assisting in the privatization of a public utility; meetings with United States government officials in Washington, D.C., to acquire information about overseas refugee assistance policy; responsibility for handling the settlement of a copyright dispute.

The Fun

A full-day, weekday deep-sea fishing expedition in the Atlantic; New York City movie premiere and charity benefit;

free privileges at a Wall Street cardio-fitness centre; a tour of the New York Times operation.

Job opportunities

It is much more difficult to reach the interview stage as a Canadian law student than as a student of comparable American law schools. This is true despite the American perception of McGill university as a top Canadian institution. The reason for this varies from firm to firm. Some firms worry about the ability of the student to obtain the necessary immigration papers. Others demand their lawyers be trained in American law and require the acquisition of a graduate law degree from a United States law school. Still others simply do not hire foreign attorneys, as a rule. There are firms, on the other hand, which thrive on creating a diverse, international pool of lawyers to better serve their respective clients. These are the firms to which McGill students should apply.

Toronto Bound

by Ken Nathens, Nat. IV

Last summer I had the opportunity to work in a major downtown Toronto law firm. This is a brief account of my experience, which I found to be generally positive.

One major misconception about working in Toronto is that Toronto firms work you constantly. Although this may be true for articling, I did not find this to be the case for summer students. The work load varied considerably. At times, it was heavy, while at other times, I was able to take off before 5:00.

A positive aspect of working at most

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Colarge law firms is that as long as the work gets done, the number of hours spent doing it is irrelevant. Thus, as the summer progressed, I became more efficient and spent less time at the office. It should be noted that whether a student works in a major law firm in Montréal, Vancouver or Toronto, the firm is in the business of serving its clients' needs and thus will often demand that the student work beyond the standard 9-5.

The work which I performed ranged from routine to interesting. Routine work included the writing and research of memos, while the more interesting aspects of my job included watching my supervising lawyer present this work in Court. I also had the opportunity to write speeches which the firm's lawyers presented at conferences. Generally, I was expected to handle any work that came

along, although if it got too heavy, I would attempt to pass work on to someone with a lighter load.

In Toronto, law firms emphasize the «personality factor». The interview process in Toronto is designed to provide law firms with students who will fit well into the firm. Therefore, most often, firms seek out individuals with fairly conservative viewpoints who will work well with other lawyers and the corporate clientele. Although this does not mean law firms only hire white males, it does mean that firms seek those who will be comfortable both with the business world and the hierarchy inherent in any large institution.

Most large Toronto law firms organize activities in which students are invited to participate. Although these activities, which range from softball to dinners, are not obligatory, students are strongly

encouraged to attend. At first, I was a bit suspicious of these activities, having heard stories about firm indoctrination and how big Toronto law firms quickly become a substitute family! However, I soon came to enjoy these events. They were generally a cheap way to have a good time since the firm would inevitably pick up all the expenses.

To enjoy these firm function, however, it is necessary to be able to get along with your colleagues and posses a fairly sociable personality.

In conclusion, working in a major Toronto law firm was a positive experience for me. I enjoyed the work and the people I worked with considerably. But it is definitely not for everyone. Those who dislike structure or working with others are best off considering other options; like unemployment!

How to become an American lawyer

by Jordan Waxman, Nat. IV

Membership of an American bar is always a good credential - whether you are a Canadian seeking a job outside of Canada or whether you are applying for admission to a graduate program, or you merely want to keep your doors open for later. The following are the practical aspects - the harsh realities of writing American bar exams.

From my experience with the New York and Massachussetts exams I can tell you - and many have heard me say this before: it was hell! A satanic ritual inflicted upon well-educated law students to make them feel inadequate and worthless before they enter the professional workforce as attorneys.

That caveat being stated; here is a «how to» guide:

New York: This exam you may write after 3rd year, provided you have completed all the requirements for the LLB. You need not actually receive the diploma. You must peti-

tion the Board of Bar Examiners, and have Deans Jukier and Stevens write letters on your behalf about the McGill curriculum.

Massachussetts: Same as New York, except you must «graduate», i.e. actually receive the degree. «Opting out» of the National Program and then «opting back in» for fourth year was no more than a phone-call technicality. It is possible, and allows me to be a lawyer before leaving law school. This has proven to be quite valuable.

Preparation courses: As far as I know, the BAR/BRI course is the only one available in Montréal and Toronto, although the choice is greater in the U.S. No matter. Any prep. course will do. I studied daily at McGill, watching taped BAR /BRI lectures and using their study materials.

The commitment: The process takes about 9 weeks. You must also write the Multistate Profession Responsibility Exam - either in March (if you are willing to miss Skit Nite) or in August - but this exam takes little preparation. For the bar exam course, the first 4

weeks require a moderate time commitment. So, it is possible to hold down a job for the first 2 months of summer, and otherwise have some semblance of a social life.

The next 3 weeks, beginning at the end of June, require heavier studying - up to 6 hours per day, on top of lectures. The final 2 weeks, forget it. Lectures haved ended. Plan on 12-14 hours of mind-warping study per day. The exams themselves last 6-6 1/2 hours a day. There is a State and a Multistate component for each jurisdiction.

Each person will have her own study method, but one thing is certain: you must put in the hours. While it is possible to «wing» the exam and pass, the odds are against it. Three of the sitters in my group who worked full-time during the course did not pass. Part of the prestige associated with the New York and Massachussetts bar exams is due to the fact that they are notoriously brutal.

For information concerning course fees and deadlines (act now), contact Alexander C. at 739-5376. For study tips or more war stories, feel free to give me a buzz!

Legal Aid in the Arctic

by Alison Wheeler, Nat. IV

[This article first appeared in last year's Careers' Day issue, on January 14 1991.]

Last summer, I worked for a legal aid clinic on Baffin Island which serves 13 eastern arctic communities. Maliiganik Tukisiiniakvik has its main office in Iqaluit and a branch in Pond Inlet at the north end of Baffin. The practice is primarily criminal defence, and the rest is mostly family. Most of the clients are Inuit.

I don't think I can really tell you what it was like to work and live in the arctic for a summer. Every time I sit down to do it, words seem incredibly inadequate. Even though the summer is never far from my mind, the people and way of life of the eastern arctic are light years away from law school in Montréal. That words seem so unfit for the task is disheartening - here I am in my third year of training in a profession that prides itself in its craftsmanship of words.

Knowing what *res judicata* means isn't a whole lot of use when the outboard motor quits and you're in rough water in a 22 foot boat in the high arctic.

What law school teaches you about getting your point across and the value of both sides being heard doesn't accomplish much when you're lost in the fog and you should just sit down and shut up and trust the judgment of someone who's older and wiser than you are.

Words would only belittle the generosity of courtworker and school teacher Tommy Enuaraq and his family of seven in Clyde River who took me in for 3 days in their 2 bedroom house while I helped Tommy interview clients for an upcoming court circuit.

Legal jargon doesn't bring much hope to the eyes of a teenager who has just told you that one his co-accused buddies killed himself within a week of being charged with the offence.

Words can't even begin to convey the injustice that exists in a system that would take a person's gun away from him upon conviction for an offence having nothing to do with a gun, when that person hunts to support himself and many other people in a small isolated commu-

nity.

Being able to recite all the case law about s. 7 of the Charter doesn't offer much consolation when the accused charged with murder breaks down and cries upon hearing her father testify at the preliminary inquiry and you haven't even got a kleenex.

Words aren't going to convince those of you who remain skeptical that «entitled to the best defence» is not just empty rethoric - that the client beside you at the defence table is a real live person who is up against the machinery of a system that isn't looking out for the little guy.

What is it I really want to say? I'd like you to understand the subtle elation you feel when the Crown or the RCMP hasn't done their job properly and someone walks. I'd like you to know how it feels to hear the judge tell your client that she's listened to the representations of his counsel and she's giving him another chance and not sending him to jail. I'd like to tell you the story about one of the lawyers I worked for who was the only person in the courtroom able to console a sobbing Crown witness so that the trial could proceed. I'd like to be able to paint an arctic sunset for you. I'd like to convey the utter irrelevance of time when you have 24 hours of daylight. I'd like you to taste whale blubber and caribou and arctic char. I'd like you to understand what it really means to be proud to work on the case of someone charged with aggravated sexual assault.

I'm not trying to persuade anyone to do work up north. You shouldn't decide that this is for you on the strenght of a rose-tinted article such as this. Life in a remote community has its downsides - the cost of living is about 300% higher than in Montréal, there is little fun that you don't make yourself, it's hard to get away from your colleagues when you're getting on each other's nerves, and the expense of getting there effectively cuts you off from friends and family in the south. My own experience was on the whole very positive, but it's not for everyone.

So, what's the point? The point is that there are jobs out there that are not (with all due respect) a predictable summer law student programme at a big downtown Toronto

firm. There are a lot of other things you could be doing. Work for the Crown in your hometown in Northern Ontario, work for a public interest group, work for a legal aid clinic, work for social services.

They're jobs that are much harder to find. You may have to convince an organization to hire a summer student for the first time ever. You'll get more rejection letters than someone who failed Business Associations applying to New York firms. You might end up eating humble pie and crawling to a big firm for a job in April anyway. But you might get to do something really neat.

They're riskier jobs - you will have less of an idea of what sort of an experience is in store for you. You may end up in a situation that will require a lot of effort to make it worthwhile and enjoyable. But you've got the rest of your life to experience Bay Street.

My advice - write a lot of letters. Make contacts. Write to people you have read about whose work really interests you. If someone can't help you, ask them to forward your C.V. or give you the names of other people who might be able to hire you. Talk to professors who may have a given interest in the area. Thank people whom you deal with properly even if they can only offer you words of encouragement. It makes a big difference to them, and they may get back to you in the future with other suggestions. And don't give up. Just because no one has ever done it before doesn't mean it isn't worthwhile or that it can't be done.

Vancouver: The West Coast Alternative

by Dabmar Diab and Rick Kuzyk (graduated, May 1991)

[This article is reprinted from the Oct. 22 1990 issue. The authors indicated at the time that Vancouver law firms conduct interviews during the Christmas break. Anyone interested in working in Vancouver for next summer should thus contact the Careers Committee as soon as possible. If it's already too late, well then just remember this article next October!]

(...)

Insofar as articling is concerned, most of the Vancouver firms participate in the Articling Student Matching Program. You can therefore interview in both Toronto and Vancouver, ranking firms from both cities on your final «Match Card». For more information on «the match», contact your local Careers Day Committee...

Job Potentials

From our experience, we've found that McGill has a great reputation in Vancouver. We therefore encourage all those interested to send out their applications. However, the firms are aware that there are students who wish to come to Vancouver with no intention to practice there in the future. Therefore it is crucial that you stress commitment to practising law on the West Coast.

Before we get into the work and benefit descriptions, we'd like to give you a fuller account of your likelihood of securing a summer position. Unfortunately, last year we had no one to sacrifice their crucial leisure time to inform us of the Vancouver hiring process. We sent out our applications in January and booked flights for the February break. Of course, most of the firms has already filled their quotas for summer students over the Christmas interview period. There were but a scant few positions still open. Luckily, we still managed to get jobs with reputable law firms.

The moral here is that if we were able to get jobs when the odds were against us, others should have an even better chance, knowing the Vancouver timetable in advance.

We would like to stress again that Vancouver firms do not wish to underwrite your summer of excess on Wreck Beach if you have no intention of giving them a return on their investment. Emphasize any West Coast ties you have, be

convincing when you say that you are going to practise in Vancouver.

The Work

Vancouver law firms range in size from the sole practitioner up to the largest comprising about 150 lawyers. As in most other cities, you'll find boutique firms as well as full service firms.

As part of your summer experience, you will most likely have the opportunity to choose the department(s) in which you'll work. Rick worked at Campney & Murphy in the labour law department. Dagmar rotated through both the litigation and corporate departments at Bull, Housser & Tupper. Tasks ranged from conducting research, writing memos, accompanying lawyers to court and arbitrations, drafting motions, etc...

Atmosphere

Rick breathed a huge sigh of relief when he discovered that the law firms were not stuffy, conservative and workaholic. There probably are some such firms in Vancouver, but we were both able to enjoy working in friendly and relaxed atmospheres which were challenging, yet not overly demanding.

As summer students, the hours were fairly flexible. An average work day ran from nine to five, with overtime being a blessedly rare occurrence.

Firm activities seemed to range from the minimal at Campney & Murphy where the lawyers were all friendly enough but preferred to spend their spare time away from the office. At Bull, Housser & Tupper, however, there were many social events such as barbecues, a harbour cruise, a party at the Vancouver Aquarium and the delightful practice of frequent student lunches. There were also various team activities such as beach volleyball, softball, etc...

Benefits

It's true that many professionals migrate out to the West Coast for its enviable lifestyle. Be forewarned, however, that salaries for law students may be considerably less than those offered in other cities.

Many Vancouver firms offer «Summer Scholarship Programs», whereby they pay summer students the articling wage, which last sum-

mer hovered around \$1 750/month in the large firms. In addition they agree to pay the students' tuition for the following year, plus a book allowance. Extra perks besides the social activities mentioned earlier may include membership at a health club.

Hire-Back

As with all hire-back ratios, those in Vancouver fluctuate with the economy. While summer students are almost always guaranteed to be hired back for articling positions, it is at the articling stage that only a select few will be asked back.

Articling

As in all other provinces, B.C. has its own particular requirements for being called to the Bar. You must successfully complete the 10 week Professional Legal Training Course (PLTC) either before or after you complete 10 months of articles. Clerkships, offered both at the B.C. Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal, are very popular and well respected in B.C., and may be an interesting option to consider. It should be mentioned however that they only count towards four of the 10 month articling requirement.

The firms do demand more of articling students than of those who are «summering», but what they expect corresponds to what the lawyers expect of themselves. Once again their salaries are apt to be less than those in Toronto, but it is also useful to point out that many Vancouver firms expect 1600-1700 billable hours/year whereas it may be much higher out East. This helps put the West Coast Alternative into perspective. Practising law in Vancouver obviously means as many different things as there are Vancouver lawyers, but there does seem to be a commitment to living a well rounded life.